CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for recognizing devices connected in a distributed processing environment, comprising:

a client computer coupled to a network and including a browser;

a server computer coupled to the network;

a database coupled to the network and containing information that identifies devices coupled to the network; and

where the client computer browses to a predefined web page and discovers from the database the presence of devices coupled to the network.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein a device coupled to the network includes a web service.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein a device coupled to the network is represented by a web service.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the client computer receives a uniform resource locator (URL) corresponding to each device coupled to the network.

5. The system of claim 2, wherein the client computer may access directly a device that contains a web service.

6. The system of claim 3, wherein the client computer may access indirectly a device that is represented by a web service.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein URL information identifying each device coupled to the network is maintained in the database and provided to the client computer.

8. A method for recognizing devices connected in a distributed processing environment, comprising:

coupling a client computer to a network, the client computer including a browser;

coupling a server computer to the network;

coupling to the network a database containing information that identifies devices coupled to the network; and

where the client computer browses to a predefined web page and discovers from the database the presence of devices coupled to the network.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein a device coupled to the network includes a web service.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein a device coupled to the network is represented by a web service.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the client computer receives a uniform resource locator (URL) corresponding to each device coupled to the network.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the client computer may access directly a device that contains a web service.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the client computer may access indirectly a device that is represented by a web service.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein URL information identifying each device coupled to the network is maintained in the database and provided to the client computer.

15. A computer readable medium having a program for recognizing devices connected in a distributed processing environment, comprising logic for:

coupling a client computer to a network, the client computer including a browser;

coupling a server computer to the network;

coupling to the network a database containing information that identifies devices coupled to the network; and

where the client computer browses to a predefined web page and discovers from the database the presence of devices coupled to the network.

16. The program of claim 15, wherein a device coupled to the network includes a web service.

17. The program of claim 15, wherein a device coupled to the network is represented by a web service.

18. The program of claim 15, wherein the client computer receives a uniform resource locator (URL) corresponding to each device coupled to the network.

19. The program of claim 16, wherein the client computer may access directly a device that contains a web service.

20. The program of claim 17, wherein the client computer may access indirectly a device that is represented by a web service.

21. The program of claim 15, wherein URL information identifying each device coupled to the network is maintained in the database and provided to the client computer.